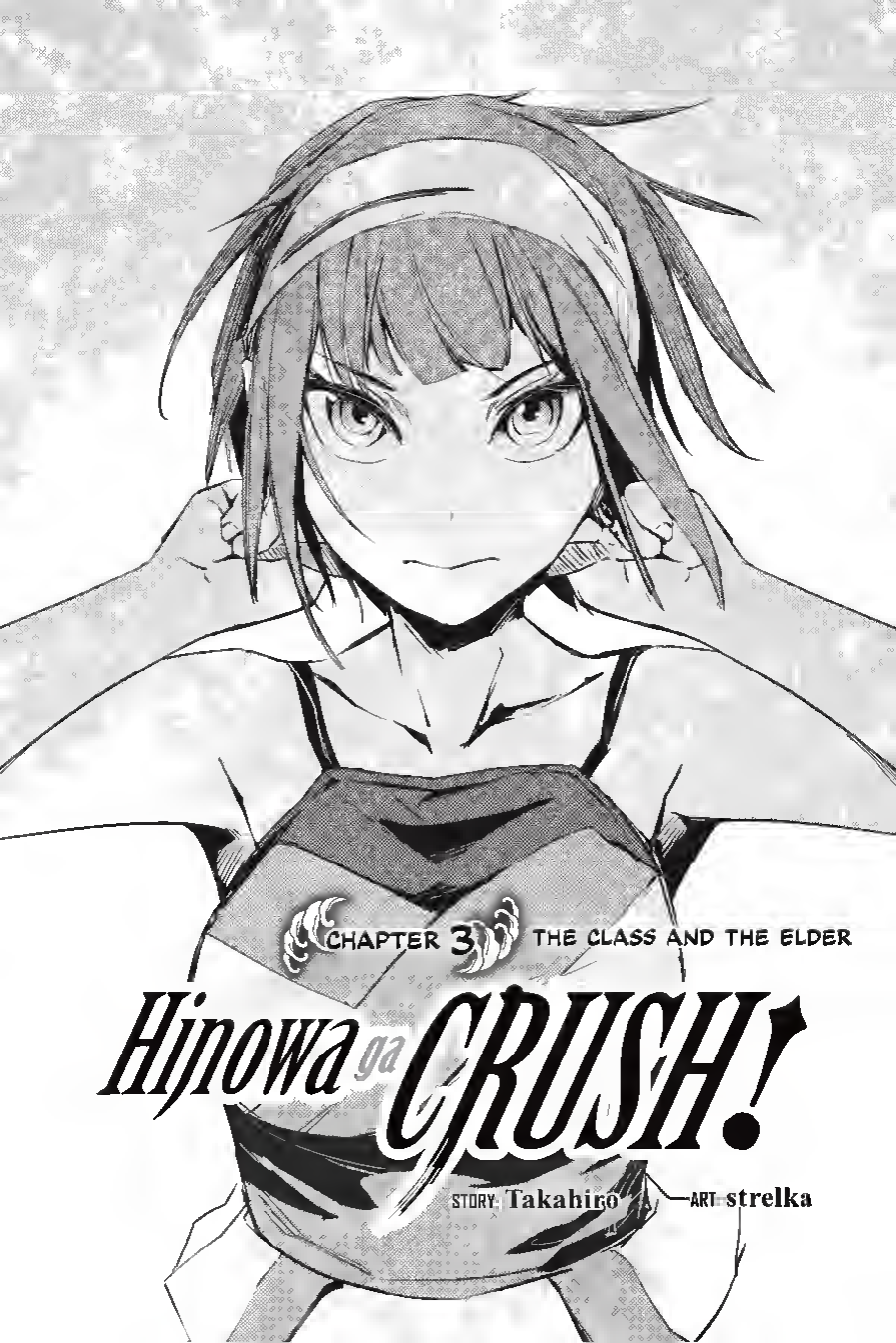
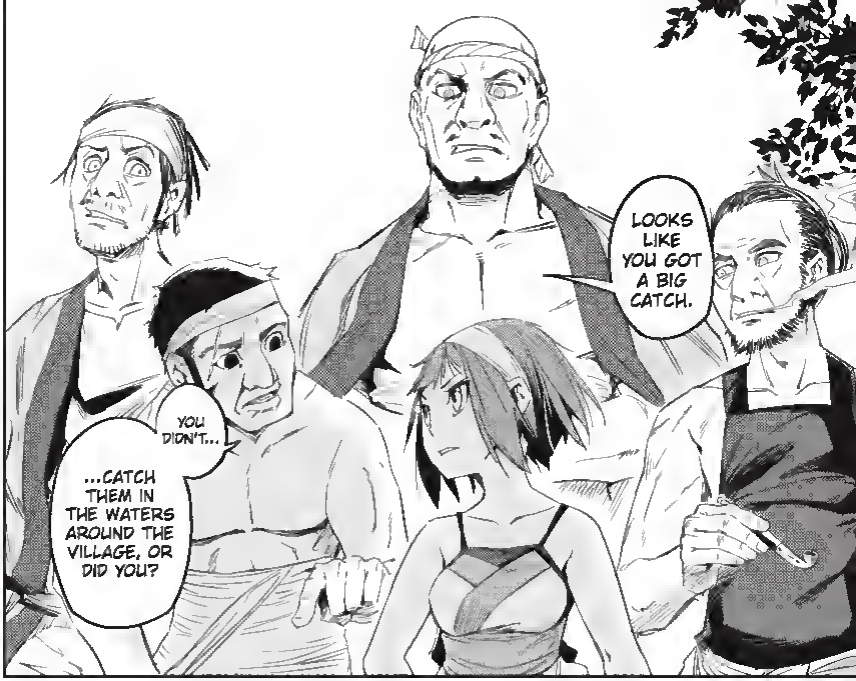
CHAPTER
3
Hinowa ga CRUSH!
TAKAHIRO
strelka

ZABA (SHIROOSHI)
I GOT A BIG CATCH TODAY!
NOW I CAN MAKE A FEAST FOR AKAME.


CHAPTER 3 THE CLASS AND THE ELDER
Hinowa ga CRUSH!
STORY Takahiro
ART strelka

YEAH, WELL, YOU'RE NOT A PART OF THE FISHING COLLEC-TIVE.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE LOWBALLING ME ON THIS DEAL?
DOUBLE-FOLD CLAMS MAY BE RARE, BUT THE RULES ARE STILL THE SAME, HINOWA.
HMPH!
BUT THERE WERE SIX DOUBLE-FOLD CLAMS IN THERE.
YOU KNOW THESE ARE THE PRICES YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE OUTSIDE THE COLLECTIVE.


LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT A BIG CATCH.
YOU DIDN'T...
...CATCH THEM IN THE WATERS AROUND THE VILLAGE, OR DID YOU?

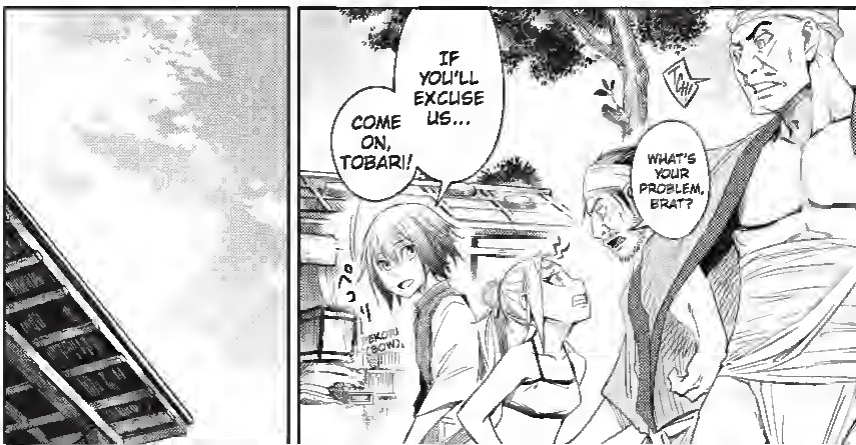
...IF YOU AGREE TO BOW DOWN TO ALL OF US, I'LL LET YOU BACK INTO THE FISHING COLLECTIVE, HINOWA.

I STAYED CLEAR OF THE COLLECTIVE'S TERRITORY.
I WENT WAY OUT INTO THE SEA FOR THIS.

BUT...NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BRING IN THERE...
THAT IS JUST HOW IT IS.

IT'S STANDARD PRACTICE THAT YOU YOUNGSTERS HAVE A TRAINING PERIOD OF ABOUT TEN YEARS.
THAT'S HOW LONG IT TAKES TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED FISHER!
DON'T GO DEMANDING A COMMISSION WHEN YOU'RE NOT EVEN GROWN UP YET!
WE STARTED OFF AT THE BOTTOM TOO. WE HAD TO DO ALL THE GRUNT WORK.
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER SNAPPED LINE TO DEAL WITH...HEH HEH.
LIKE HOW HARD IT IS HAVING TO MEND YOUR TOOLS.
YEAH.
IT MUST BE HARD STRIKING OUT ON YOUR OWN, HINOWA.

...GUYS.
WHATCHA DOIN', HINOWA?
LET'S GO!


IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US...
COME ON, TOBARI!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BRAT?

AH-HA-HA!
HINOWA'S SO QUICK TO ANGER.
SORRY.
THE ELDER TOLD YOU NOT TO GO SHOWING OFF YOUR MARTIAL ARTS UNTIL YOUR FIRST BATTLE, REMEMBER?
THE ELDER'S BACK, HINOWA.
!
WHA!?
IF TOBARI SAYS SO, THEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME.
WAH!
SAY THAT AGAIN, SUZU!
I GUESS THEY'VE BANDED TOGETHER, ALL BEING PROBLEM CHILDREN.
APPARENTLY THEY GO TO SOME WEIRDO WHO LIVES OUTSIDE OF TOWN TO LEARN THEIR LETTERS AND PLAY PRETEND SWORD FIGHTS.
...AN ORPHAN WHO WON'T LISTEN TO ANYBODY, THE SECOND SON OF A FARMING FAMILY, THE CHILD OF A MISTRESS, AND THE CHILD OF A DRUNKARD
...

YEP. I'M INVITING YOU TO MY CLASSES TOMORROW, AKAME.
THEY'RE PRETTY STRONG.
THOUGH I'M STRONGER!
THERE ARE THREE OTHER GUYS.
WILL I GET TO MEET THE RUMORED ELDER TOMORROW?
THEY'RE GOOD GUYS. I VALUE THEM AS FRIENDS.

HACHIKON (SMOKE)
HYU (TEEK)
KASA (RUSTLE)
YEAH, THEY ARE GOOD GUYS.
THOUGH I'M STRONGER!
...HMM!?
BAKI (CLOSE)
BAKI
BAKI
BAKI
YOW!!
THAT MUST'VE BEEN KUME.
...AND RIGHT AFTER I CALLED HIM A GOOD GUY.
SORRY, AKAME.

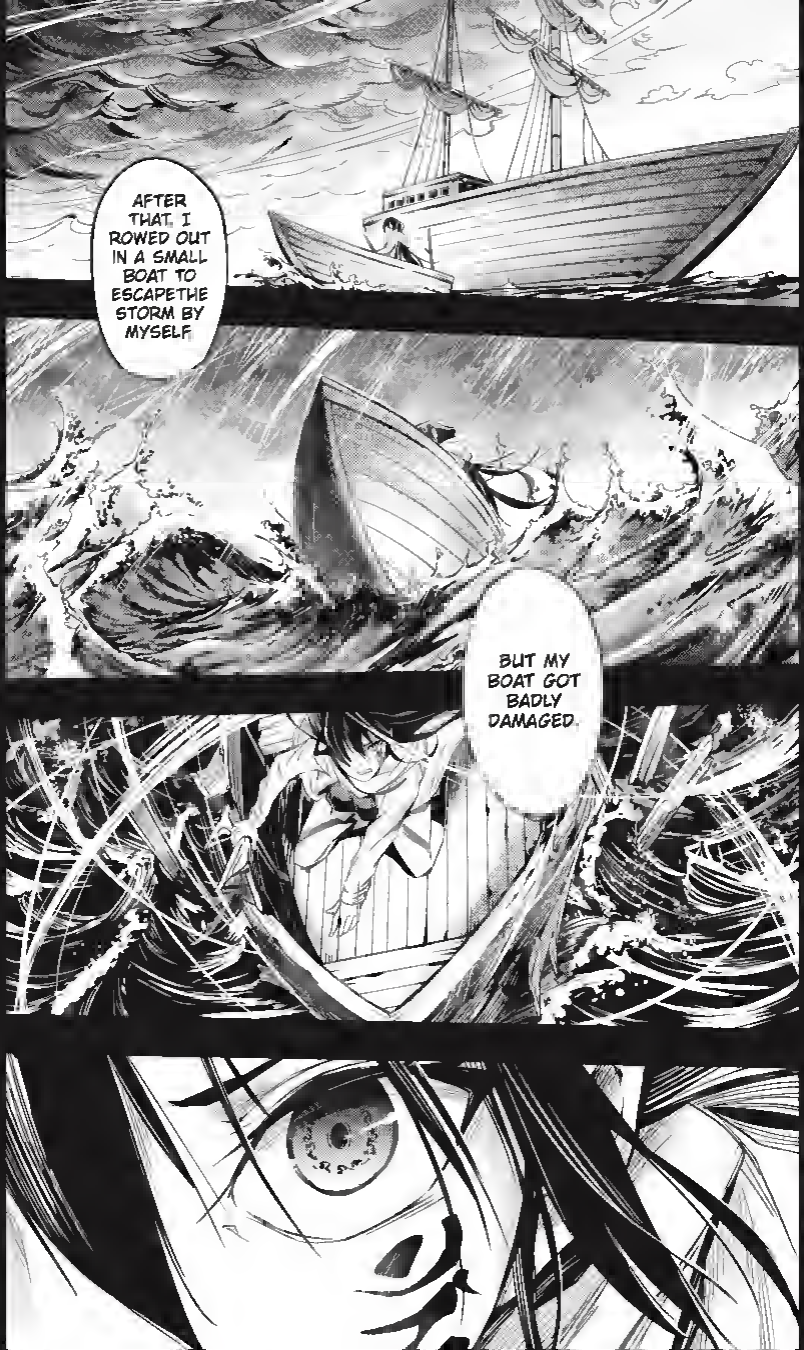
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT TYPE.
IT'S FINE.

NOW.
COME ON IN.
I ONLY DID WHAT ANYBODY WOULD DO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HEALING MY WOUNDS.
PEKORI
PEKORI

I'M SUZUMARU. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M HISAME.
PEOPLE CALL ME THE ELDER.
...THOUGH THERE ARE MANY WHO CALL ME STRANGE.
SAYS YOU WITH THE BANDAGES ON.
...THOSE ARE FALSE CHARGES.
SACHIN (WINK)
ハヰー--☆
AND I KNOW THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT I WAS THE ONE PEEKING IN ON YOU BATHING LAST NIGHT, BUT...
I'M KUME-HACHI!

I HEAR THERE ARE LOTS OF GIANT FREAKS WHEN YOU GO FAR TO THE WEST BY SEA...
...ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE TO PASS AN AREA OF THE OCEAN ALWAYS RAGING WITH STORMS...
I MUST SAY I'M SURPRISED.
IT'S TRUE.
I HAD A LARGE SHIP TAKE ME THAT FAR.
I UNDER-STAND YOU CROSSED THE GREAT SEA FROM THE FAR REACHES OF THE WEST TO GET HERE, AKAME.


AFTER THAT, I ROWED OUT IN A SMALL BOAT TO ESCAPETHE STORM BY MYSELF.
BUT MY BOAT GOT BADLY DAMAGED.

THAT'S WHEN I ENCOUNTERED A GIANT DANGER BEAST...
I SUPPOSE YOU CALL THEM FREAKS HERE?
ANYWAY I WAS ATTACK-ED.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SURVIVED THAT...
...WHEN THAT PART OF THE OCEAN IS WHAT KEEPS THE FAR REACHES OF THE WEST SUCH A MYSTERY.
ゴクリ
GOKURI (GULP)

I FOUGHT FOR DEAR LIFE...
AND WHEN I CAME TO, I'D WASHED UP ON SHORE. THAT'S WHEN I WAS SAVED BY YOU ALL.

YOU EVEN SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE.
THERE WAS A BOOK THAT EXPLAINED IN DEPTH ABOUT THE WORLD, INCLUDING THIS COUNTRY.
SO I STUDIED BEFOREHAND.
BUT THAT BOOK WAS WRITTEN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
MAKING THE KNOWLEDGE IN IT A THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

WHAT REASON DID YOU HAVE FOR COMING TO THIS COUNTRY THAT YOU WOULD GO SO FAR?
DIPLO-MATIC RELA-TIONS?
IT WAS A PERSONAL REASON.
THIS MARK IS A CURSE I USED WHEN I DEFEATED A STRONG ENEMY IN A WAR IN THE COUNTRY I COME FROM.
AT FIRST, IT HURT SO BADLY I COULDN'T BEAR IT, BUT AS I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT, IT NOW FEELS LIKE MY ENTIRE BODY IS WEIGHED DOWN AND HEAVY.
I HAVE A FEELING IT WON'T END WITH ONLY THAT.
I BELIEVE IT IS EATING AWAY AT MY VERY LIFE.

I AM IN A SEARCH OF A WAY TO BREAK THE CURSE.
AND THERE IS MUCH ELSE I WISH TO KNOW...
LIKE WHEN A PERSON BECOMES A FREAK.
HOW TO TURN THEM BACK.
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH, AKAME.
SLEEP
?

WE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE MORE TO YOUR SITUATION, SO WE KEPT YOU A SECRET FROM THE OTHERS.
BUT IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE NOT A RUNAWAY FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.
THEN YOU BELIEVE ME?
AKAME.
I BELIEVE ANYTHING A HOTTIE HAS TO SAY!
NOW IT IS OUR TURN TO EXPLAIN OUR-SELVES TO YOU.

AT PRESENT, TWENTY-TWO COUNTRIES ARE LOCKED IN A BATTLE FOR RULE IN THIS AGE OF CIVIL WAR.
THIS IS THE COMPLETE MAP OF WAKOKU.
WE ARE IN THE SOUKAI NATION.
THIS SMALL COUNTRY HERE.
AND THE MAP OF THE SURROUNDING AREAS IS THIS HERE.
PARA (FLAP)
HERE IS YAENAMI VILLAGE, WHERE WE ARE NOW.
WE ARE ALLIES WITH THE SARYUU, AND THE TENROU IS AN ENEMY NATION THAT IS TARGETING OUR TERRITORY.
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THIS AREA SEEMS VERY PEACEFUL, THOUGH.

THE IMPREGNABLE SHIRANUI FORTRESS BLOCKS THE WAY HERE BY LAND.
WHEN IT COMES TO MARINE WARFARE, THEY ARE SECOND TO NONE.
THE SOUKAI NATION SUBSISTS ALONG WITH THE OCEAN.
...THE DOMAIN OF THE SOUKAI NATION HAS MAINTAINED PEACE AND TRANQUILITY LIKE THAT OF A DIFFERENT WORLD.
THAT IS WHY, FOR MANY DECADES ...
WHEN THOSE TENROU DOGS FIND AN OPENING, THEY SEND IN THEIR TROOPS.
BUT THAT'S NOT TO SAY WE'RE NOT INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING.

I'M GOING TO BECOME A STRONG GENERAL THAT COMMANDS A HUGE ARMY!
I'M GONNA RAMPAGE ACROSS THE LAND!
IF WE CAN DISTINGUISH OURSELVES ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
...EVEN MEMBERS OF THE LOWEST CASTE OF SOCIETY LIKE US CAN OBTAIN OUR DREAMS.
WE'RE LEARNING HERE SO THAT WE CAN PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE FIGHT.

FOR ME, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GIRLS.
I WANT TO BE SURROUNDED BY COUNTLESS HOTTIES ...
...AND BE MADE SUCH A FUSS OVER FROM MORNING UNTIL NIGHT THAT I'LL HAVE TO BEG THEM TO GIVE ME A BREAK!
WHEN THE WORLD IS AT WAR, IT IS DARK TIMES INDEED.
BUT IT CAN ALSO BE WHEN PEOPLE SHINE THE BRIGHTEST.

THE PEOPLE HERE HONING THEIR SKILLS ARE AS OF YET UNKNOWN, BUT...
...THEY'RE PRODIGIES WITH THE POWER TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR.

YEAH!
AND WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, WE'RE GOING TO END THE CHAOS!

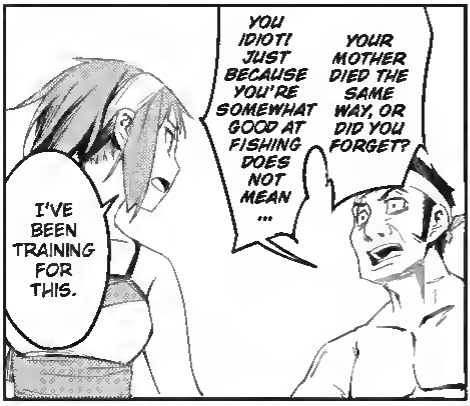
I HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT YOUR CURSE, AKAME.
I WILL LOOK INTO IT, SO IN THE MEANWHILE, RECUPERATE IN HINOWA'S HOME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BY THE WAY, MASTER ELDER... DO YOU HAVE A NAME?

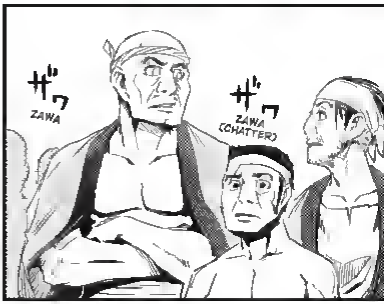
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT EITHER.
I AM A STRANGE, OLD MAN WHO WANDERED INTO THIS VILLAGE.
I SINGLED OUT AND TRAINED THESE CHILDREN WITH POTENTIAL.
THAT IS ALL I CAN SAY.
KASHI (CLASH)
KASHI
I SENSE ELEGANCE AND DIGNITY...
NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT. HE WAS A PERSON OF HIGH RANK.

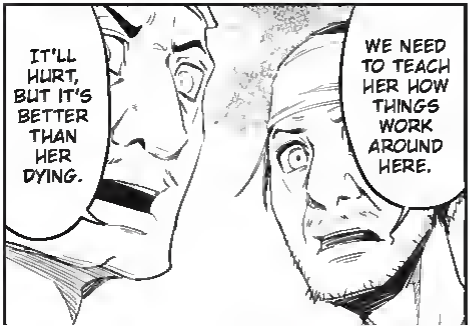
GAVA
GAVA (GRAB)
THE ELDER DID SAY...
...THAT NEXT TIME THEY START RECRUITING SOLDIERS, WE'LL GO TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.

HEY!
HEY!
THEY'VE PUT UP AN OFFICIAL RECRUIT-MENT BILL-BOARD!
THE TENROU ARMY IS ON THE MOVE!

FINALLY. OUR FIRST OFFICIAL BATTLE.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT!


YOUR MOTHER DIED THE SAME WAY, OR DID YOU FORGET?
YOU IDIOT! JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SOMEWHAT GOOD AT FISHING DOES NOT MEAN ...
I'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR THIS.


ZAWA
ZAWA (CHATTER)


WE NEED TO TEACH HER HOW THINGS WORK AROUND HERE.
IT'LL HURT, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN HER DYING.

(HOLT)
HEY!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'LL BE GOING INTO BATTLE, HINOWA!
YES, I AM.

BUNA (CLANG!)
YOU NEED TO LEARN TO FEAR ADULTS!
LISTEN, HINOWA. WE'RE GOING TO PUNCH YOU NOW.
YOU CAN HIT BACK. NOT THAT IT'LL DO ANY GOOD.
HINOWA!
THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST BATTLE, SO I THINK IT'S OKAY TO USE MARTIAL ARTS.
HYA (ZIP)

SUWA (WHOOSH)
PAN (SMACK)

I D-DIN'T REALIZE... YOU WERE SO STRONG.
GUGU (STRAIN)
Y... YOU...
ZAWA
WEAK-LINGS.
ZAWA (MURMUR)
DID YOU SEE THAT?
ZAWA
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
WE'RE GOING NOW...
...TO MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE.
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER...!

Hinowa ga CRUSH!
Chapter 3

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